

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-95 in the application and added Claims 96-101. In previous submissions, the Applicants amended Claims 1-2, 10-11, 13-14, 16, 23-24, 28-29, 31, 34, 40-41, 43-44, 46, 53-54, 58-59 and 61-91. In the present response, the Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 31, 61 and dependent Claim 32. Support for the amendment can be found on page 33, lines 16-28, and page 34, lines 22-29. Claims 1-101 are currently pending in the application.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-101 under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-101 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite. The Examiner asserts that "the enterprise level" in Claim 1 does not have an antecedent basis. As such, instead of Claims 1-101, the Examiner appears to reject Claim 1 and those claims which depend thereon, Claims 2-30. In response, the Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to correct this inadvertent error. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw this rejection of Claim 1 and all claims depending thereon.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-11, 21-22, 27, 31-41, 51-52, 57, 61-71, 81-82, 87, 91-95 and 97-101 under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-11, 21-22, 27, 31-41, 51-52, 57, 61-71, 81-82, 87, 91-95 and 97-101 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,112,183 to Swanson, *et al.* The Applicants respectfully disagree.

As discussed with the Examiner, the present invention relates to assimilating and accessing data at an enterprise level even when the data is stored at and has been entered at an ancillary system level. (See page 2, lines 5-11.) The present invention achieves this assimilating and accessing by layering an enterprise level solution **over** an existing system level application structure. This allows an enterprise level server to warehouse data that was converted from the existing system application level to an enterprise database at the enterprise level layered thereover. (See page 33, lines 16-25.) Event data can then be organized based on enterprise level information priori rather than the individual system level information structures. Additionally, the enterprise level server can establish functional relationships between seemingly disparate event elements. (See page 33, lines 17-20, and page 34, lines 22-29.) While enterprise level access of the data is provided, the functionality of the individual ancillary system applications remains unmodified and each ancillary system continues to process event information and store the information locally. (See page 33, lines 16-28.)

In contrast, Swanson divides applications into parts or tiers that can be run independently on multiple systems that are connected via a network. (See column 3, lines 11-15 and Figure 1A.) The applications are developed using a three-tiered architecture including a user interface tier 16, a business logic tier 18, a data access tier 20 and a communication interface 22. (See column 3, lines 20-24 and Figure 1A.) As such, the various subsystems of Swanson, such as, the enrollment subsystems 26, the billing subsystems 28, the benefits subsystems 30, *etc.*, are divided into the business logic tier, data access tier and user interface tier with each tier having a communications interface. (See column 4, lines 42-67, and Figures 1A-2.) The communication interface that is employed includes an interface definition language that generates transaction-specific

communication codes whereby data is exchanged through a common interface structure regardless of the origin of the data. (See Abstract.)

As expressed to the Examiner, Swanson, therefore, does not even appear to address a layered system as presently claimed wherein there is an enterprise level layered over an existing system application level of the disparate, ancillary systems. Instead, in Swanson the communication interface 22 is used to provide communication between tiers of applications. (See column 4, lines 18-19 and Figure 1A.) As such, Swanson does not teach catching a message wherein the message was generated by a disparate, ancillary system at **an existing system application level**, converting, **at the enterprise level layered over the existing system application level**, content from the message to enterprise information using the content conversion rules as recited in independent Claims 1.

Additionally, the Applicants do not find where Swanson discloses using content conversion rules based on the identity of disparate, ancillary systems to convert content at the enterprise level as recited in Claim 1. Instead, Swanson uses **transaction-specific** communication codes to exchange data between tiers. (See Abstract.)

Swanson, therefore, for at least the above reasons, does not teach each element of independent Claim 1, and similarly, independent Claims 31, 61 and 91. As such, Swanson does not anticipate independent Claims 1, 31, 61 and 91 and Claims dependent thereon. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the §102 rejection with respect to Claims 1-11, 21-22, 27, 31-41, 51-52, 57, 61-71, 81-82, 87, 91-95 and 97-101 and allow issuance thereof.

Turning now to specifically address independent Claim 1, the Applicants fail to find where Swanson discloses storing the enterprise information in the enterprise database as recited in

independent Claim 1. Instead of storing data at the enterprise level for access, Swanson provides specialized remote procedure calls that allow communication between different computer systems and the data stored within each system. (See column 2, lines 22-26, and Figure 1A.) Thus, Swanson is not even concerned with storing data at an enterprise level layered over an existing system application level but instead is directed to insuring access to data stored in the data access tier of each application.

The Examiner cites several sections of Swanson to teach "storing the enterprise information in the enterprise database." (See Examiner's Final Action, page 8.) While these sections of Swanson may disclose a data access tier implemented in a database system, the Applicants fail to find where enterprise information that is converted from content of a message generated by a disparate, ancillary system at an existing system application level and converted using content conversion rules based on the identity of the disparate, ancillary system, is stored in a database at an enterprise level layered over the existing system application level. Accordingly, Swanson also does not teach storing the enterprise information in the enterprise database as recited in independent Claim 1.

Furthermore, the Applicants fail to see where Swanson discloses checking enterprise information for a relationship with **enterprise data** based on the relationship rules, wherein the rules establish functional relationships between information from a plurality of disparate, ancillary systems as recited in Claim 1. On the contrary, without an enterprise level layered thereover, Swanson does not appear to even provide a mechanism to establish functional relationships between seemingly disparate event elements.

The Applicants also note that Swanson does not appear to disclose means for storing the enterprise information in the enterprise database, wherein the enterprise information is stored **based on enterprise level information priori** as recited in amended dependent Claim 32.

II. Rejection of Claims 12-20, 23-26, 28-30, 42-50, 53-56, 58-60, 72-80, 83-86, 88-90 and 96 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 12-20, 23-26, 28-30, 42-50, 53-56, 58-60, 72-80, 83-86, 88-90 and 96 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Swanson in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,377,162 to Delestienne, *et al.* The Applicants respectfully disagree.

As discussed above, Swanson does not even teach each element of independent Claims 1, 31, 61 and 91. Additionally, Swanson does not suggest each element of these independent Claims since Swanson does not even disclose an enterprise level layered over an existing system application level. Additionally, Delestienne has been cited against the subject matter of the above dependent claims and has not been cited to cure the deficiencies of Swanson regarding the independent Claims. Accordingly, the cited combination does not provide a *prima facie* case of obviousness of independent Claims 1, 31, 61 and 91 and Claims dependent thereon. As such, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the §103(a) rejection of dependent Claims 12-20, 23-26, 28-30, 42-50, 53-56, 58-60, 72-80, 83-86, 88-90 and 96 and allow issuance thereof.

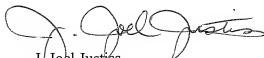
III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicants now see all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-101.

The Applicants request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, credits or overpayments to Deposit Account 08-2395.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Joel Justiss", is written over the printed name.

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